

## **GRADUATE PROGRAMS WITH A MAJOR IN NURSING (MS)**

Interim Associate Dean: Dr. Franta

Acting Graduate Coordinator: Dr. Belport

Faculty: Dr. Belport, Dr. Coram, Howard, Imes, Murtagh, Dr. Rooney

The School of Nursing offers a Master of Science (MS) with a major in Nursing in the following emphasis areas:

- Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP)
- Adult/Gerontology Acute Care/Family Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP/FNP)
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
- Nurse Educator

Graduate programs are delivered using a hybrid format (on/off campus and on-line). In order to register for graduate nursing courses students must have unconditional acceptance into the nursing program and follow the degree plan, or register by permission of the graduate nursing program coordinator.

### **Accredited through 2019 by:**

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)

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### **School Mission:**

The mission of the School of Nursing is to prepare graduates for professional positions as safe, competent and caring nurses to meet the health care needs of diverse populations.

### **Program Outcomes**

1. Eighty percent of graduates will:
  - Complete the program within one and one half times the length of the program.
  - Express satisfaction with the program.
  - Pass national certification exam the first time.
  - Be employed in role related professional practice within to one year.
2. Eighty percent of employers will express satisfaction with graduates' job performance.

### **Expected Student Learning Outcomes for Nurse Practitioner Programs**

At the completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

1. Integrate evidence-based practice, ethical decision making and technology into advanced nursing practice.
2. Utilize interprofessional collaboration to provide safe, quality patient-centered care.
3. Lead quality improvement initiatives that affect delivery of advanced nursing practice and health care services.

### **Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Emphasis (AGACNP)**

This program prepares students to provide evidence-based, safe, quality patient-centered care in a variety of chronic, acute, and emergent care settings. The graduate will be eligible to take the Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification examination. The following courses are required.

#### Fall (Year 1)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| NSG 504 NSG Writing & Presentation Skills ..... | 1*  |
| NSG 506 Roles, Ethics & Issues .....            | 3** |
| NSG 508 Advanced Practice Theory .....          | 3   |
| NSG 571 Healthcare Informatics .....            | 2   |

#### Spring

|  |   |
|--|---|
| NSG 550 Health Policy & Finance .....          | 3 |
| NSG 551 Health Promotion .....                 | 2 |
| NSG 562 Advanced Assessment .....              | 2 |
| NSG 562/L Advanced Assessment Lab.....         | 1 |
| NSG 570 Advanced Evidence Based Practice ..... | 3 |

#### Summer

|  |   |
|--|---|
| NSG 552 Advanced Pathophysiology ..... | 3 |
| NSG 561 Advanced Pharmacology .....    | 3 |
| NSG 610 Diagnostic Reasoning .....     | 2 |

#### Fall (Year 2)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| NSG 612L Acute Care Skills Lab.....              | 2 |
| NSG 620 Acute Care Adult/Gerontology I .....     | 2 |
| NSG 620L Acute Care Adult/Gero Practicum I ..... | 4 |
| NSG 593 Thesis Seminar (Optional) .....          | 3 |

#### Spring

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| NSG 621 Acute Care Adult/Gerontology II .....    | 4          |
| NSG 621L Acute Care Adult/Gero Practicum II..... | 4          |
| NSG 599 Thesis Research (Optional).....          | (Var. 1-6) |

#### Summer

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| NSG 622 Acute Care Adult/Gerontology III .....    | 4           |
| NSG 622L Acute Care Adult/Gero Practicum III..... | 4           |
| NSG 599 Thesis Research (Optional).....           | (Var. 1-6)  |
| <br>  |             |
| Total Lab Hours .....                             | 90          |
| Total AGACNP Clinical Semester Hours.....         | 570         |
| Total Program Credits .....                       | 51 Optional |
| Elective .....                                    | 7-10        |

\* NSG 504 is an optional elective to assist students in graduate writing.

\*\*NSG 506 students must complete 30 contact hours of observational clinical related to their emphasis (30 hours Acute Care).

### **Admission Criteria**

#### **ADN RN to MS Pathway**

Associate degree RNs may apply for a continuous pathway to receive the BSN and the MS in one of the 4 graduate emphasis areas offered. Admission requirements for both and ADN RN-BSN and MS programs must be met to enter this pathway with two exceptions:

1. CSU-Pueblo RN-BSN program must be satisfactorily completed in order to continue into the MS program.
2. Required RN practice hours must be completed prior to continuing into the MS program. (Curriculum and admission requirements for the RN-BSN may be found in the undergraduate nursing portion of this catalog.)

#### **BSN to MS**

Students are responsible for following all admission policies and procedures as outlined in the Graduate Programs section of the University catalog.

1. Baccalaureate degree in nursing from an institution accredited by a regional accreditation agency (or equivalent).
2. 4000 hours (2 years full-time) experience as a registered nurse (Nurse Educator emphasis only).
3. 2000 Hours (1 year full-time) experience as a registered nurse (AGACNP, AGACNP/FNP and PMHNP emphases only).
4. Undergraduate BSN cumulative GPA of 3.0.
5. Undergraduate statistics course with a grade of C or higher.
6. Application for admission to graduate programs in the Office of Admission (admission to graduate programs does not constitute admission to the nursing graduate program).
7. Application for admission to nursing graduate program in the School of Nursing.

8. Proof of active, unrestricted Colorado Registered Nurse license.
9. Background check per Colorado Law (see application).
10. Current immunizations as stated on application.
11. Current certification in CPR (Health Care Provider – C or equivalent).
12. Three letters of recommendation:
  - a. Professional or Academic
  - b. Clinical
  - c. Other
13. Letter of intent that includes:
  - a. Brief history of self
  - b. Reason for pursuing advanced degree
  - c. How applicant will manage work, home, and study
14. Curriculum Vitae  
(Use the template located under Graduate Nursing Student Application Instructions on the website)

Preference for acceptance will be given to applicants who have:

1. More than 2 years of practice experience
2. One year or more of experience as a clinical adjunct instructor (Nurse Educator only)
3. Residency in Southern Colorado
4. Graduate from CSU-Pueblo

If accepted into the MS program, requirements prior to attending first class include:

1. Drug screen
2. Physical exam within last 12 months

### **Graduation Requirements for MS**

The graduate degree will be granted to candidates who meet all of the University catalog requirements plus the following:

1. Graduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
2. All courses must be passed with a B or better.
3. Completed comprehensive exam or thesis.

### **Acceptance of Transfer Credits**

Transfer credit will be awarded per the published Graduate Programs section of the University catalog. Nine semester hours of transfer credits from an accredited institution may be applied to the degree with approval of the graduate program coordinator.

**Time Limits**

Courses completed 6 or more years before the date of graduation will not be accepted as satisfying graduation requirements without the approval by the graduate nursing program coordinator.

**POST MASTERS CERTIFICATION**

- Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult/Gerontology Acute Care/Family Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse Educator

Students seeking post masters certification in the program who already have a nursing graduate degree are evaluated on an individual basis. Their plan of study is based on their academic credentials. The Colorado State University-Pueblo requirements state a student must complete a minimum of 15 postgraduate credit hours to be eligible for a post masters certification. Core courses must be completed to meet the mandates of the Colorado State Board of Nursing for Advanced Nursing Practice. A total of 500 clinical hours must be documented for each nurse practitioner emphasis. The student's plan is developed based on the academic course work already completed. Post masters certification can be earned in all emphasis areas.